

Application No. 10/719,771
Amendment dated August 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on June 20, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 27, and 34 are amended, and no claims are canceled or added; as a result, claims 1-37 are now pending in this application.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,267,322). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

With regard to independent claim 1, as amended, the Smith reference appears to describe, "The incoming interface elements 20 include one or more analog line interface modules 24, which receive incoming calls on a public switched telephone line 70." (Col. 5, lines 27-29). Smith appears to further describe, "the analog interface modules digitize incoming call signals and assign the call to a channel in the system." (Col. 5, lines 30-32). In addition, Smith states in the System Overview that "The system preferably is the VoiceServer 2110 product commercially available from Digital Sound Corp., Carpinteria, Calif." (Col. 5, lines 15-18). Hence, the Smith reference appears to describe a voice messaging system to receive incoming calls on a public switched telephone line and internally assign such calls to a line, or channel, in the system. The reference does not show a gain adjustment module including program instructions to adjust the power level of the outgoing voice signal stream by applying the gain value to the outgoing voice signal stream to operate within compliance of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) before the outgoing voice signal stream enters an output channel connected to the PSTN.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

a gain adjustment module including program instructions to adjust the power level of the outgoing voice signal stream by applying the gain value to the outgoing voice signal stream to operate within compliance of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)

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before the outgoing voice signal stream enters an output channel connected to the PSTN.

Independent claim 7, as amended, recites:

a gain factor setting module coupled to the gain adjustment module wherein the gain factor setting module includes program instructions to set the gain value by comparing the measured power level to a threshold to operate within compliance of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) before the outgoing voice signal stream enters an output channel connected to the PSTN.

Independent claim 14, as amended, recites:

means for adjusting a power level of the voice signal stream to operate within compliance of the PSTN before the outgoing voice signal stream enters an output channel connected to the PSTN; and the output channel in communication with the PSTN to receive the voice signal stream from the media platform.

Independent claims 21 and 27, as amended, each recites:

adjusting the power level of the outgoing voice signal stream based on the comparison to operate within compliance of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) before the outgoing voice signal stream enters an output channel connected to the PSTN.

In addition, independent claim 34, as amended, recites:

gradually adjusting the power level of the outgoing voice signal stream over time based on the comparison to bring the power level toward a target output level to operate within compliance of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) before the outgoing voice signal stream enters an output channel connected to the PSTN.

Applicant respectfully submits that amending independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 27, and 34 as shown is supported by the specification as originally submitted. For example, the specification recites, "The power level can also be adjusted before the signal stream enters an output channel, e.g., a T1 channel connected to a PSTN." (Page 12, lines 14-16). In addition, Figure 2 of the present application shows a voice data source 202 supplying a voice signal stream to a gain controller wherein gain adjustment 228 is performed before the outgoing voice signal stream enters an

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output channel 208 connected to the PSTN 222. Further support for the amendment can be found on: page 2, line 31, through page 3, line 2; page 3, lines 5-9; page 6, lines 4-13; page 6, line 32, through page 7, line 1; page 14, lines 29-31; page 15, lines 4-12; and Figure 5.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 27, and 34, as currently amended, is not present in the Smith reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejection of independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 27, and 34, as amended, as well as those claims that depend therefrom.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Tuan V. Ngo at (408) 447-8133 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.9: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent Office facsimile number (371) 273-8300 on

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